Production costs or Paper produced by National Newsprint and Paper Mills Limited

*238 SHRI KAMAL MORARKA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production costs of National Newsprint and Paper Mills Limited are higher than the prices of imported newsprint:

(b) if so, what are the factors responsible for higher production costs:

(c) whether it is also a fact that the quality of paper is inferior to that of imported paper: and

(d) if so. the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTTR OF STATE IN TUT MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Inferior raw-material resulting in greater use of chemicals.

(ii) high cost of power, (iii) Smaller size of operations, (iv) excess manpower, and (v) old plant and machinery.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The quality of raw material available in NEPA is inferior as com pared to Coniferious Soft Wood available abroad and many foreign countries have more advanced technology, automation, instrumen tation etc.

Production capacity of salt units

*239. SHRI KRISHAN LAI, SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of salt manufacturing companies working in the country at present:

(b) the details of their location and production capacity of each company:

(c) wheher it is a fact that their production capacity is enough to meet the domestic requirements and to meet the export targets: and

(d) if so, the reasons for giving permission to a foreign company to set up a salt manufacturing plant at an Island of strategic importance for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE. IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The number of licensed salt manufacturing units in the coutnry is 2897.

(b) This information is not centrally maintained.

(c) Yes. Sir.

(if) A letter of permission has been issued to M/s. Cargil Southeast Asia Ltd.. Singapore to set up a 100% Export Oriented Unit in Kutch District of Gujarat with an annual capacity of 10 lakh tonnes of solar salt with the condition that the entire (100%) production will be exported. This project is expected to earn substantial foreign exchange and generate employment.

''Statistical power regression model' for accurate forecasts about monsoon behaviour

*240. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department has perfected a "Statistical power regression model" for making accurate forecasts about monsoon behaviour in the country:

(b) if so. what has been the cost of the project and the investment on the super computer that has been used to develop this model of forecasting the monsoon:

(c) what have been the broad aims and objects of this exercise:

(d) whether it has any use for India's agriculture: and

(e) if so. what are the reasons that the Finance Ministry has asked the IMD to dispense with these forecasts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This model has been developed as apart of the programme of India Meteorological